

The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City

Citizens Want to Know

How AF Allocates Funds for Roads



For years, the No. 1 concern American Fork residents have expressed in citizen surveys is the condition of the city's roads, and for good reason. Most of the roads were impacted by the installation of the pressurized irrigation system that voters approved in 2006. Even though there were patches put in place, the project led to a more rapid deterioration of the roadways as water infiltrated the cracks and the freeze/thaw cycle caused damage.

Some residents have complained that they don't see road work being done in American Fork. Like most of us, they may spend most of their driving time on the same roads day after day and may not be aware of the scope of projects being completed elsewhere throughout the city. Every year American Fork's road work plan includes improvements to roads in every part of the city to make sure we every part of town is getting attention.

This year, American Fork performed various types of treatment to slightly more than 10 lane miles of our roads. That includes chip seals, slurry seals and full reconstructions. Those who want to see where that work took place may go to www.americanfork.gov/roads.

In the last few years, there was work on another 28.26 lane miles of roads and spent about \$9 million. The map of those projects can be seen at www.americanfork.gov/roads.

Yes, there is work being done, with more planned. But roads are not cheap. This year the City averaged \$327,000 per lane mile of road. As a comparison, American Fork can fully fund recreation programs throughout the city, including staff, for the same cost to repair two miles of road. But while the city does

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Office Numbers

Administration	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center	801-763-3090

Non-Emergency

Police	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain	801-404-7167
Streets	801-404-1255
Garbage	801-924-8500
Street Lights	801-814-4311



AMERICAN FORK
www.americanfork.gov



From the Mayor's Desk

As the mayor of American Fork City, a top priority of mine is ensuring that our communities are safe. It's no secret that this year has hit all of us with many unfamiliar challenges in which safety has been on the forefront of our minds. With the outbreak of Covid-19, wildfires, water safety, and extreme weather over the summer, the ability to distribute important information to our citizenry has never been more important. In talking with my fellow mayor's at other cities, I know this is a top issue for them as well



Along with many other cities in Utah County, American Fork uses a software called Everbridge for our emergency notification system. Residents can sign up for this by going to alerts.utahcounty.gov. Systems like this are often called Reverse 911 systems, which is a generic term for when authorities (i.e., city, police, fire) contact residents in an emergency. These systems are used when the residents are unaware of an emergency, or unsure the proper course of action. American Fork's Reverse 911 system can email, call, or text residents city-wide or within a specific area. With Everbridge we can also send a recorded message. This system is an essential tool to communicate efficiently with the citizenry and helps our emergency teams preform their jobs more effectively.

There is a saying that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink. I feel this saying embodies the relationship between the cities, residents, and emergency notification systems. A city can have the best notification system available and do all they can to promote it, but if residents don't sign up then it does no good. Cities will do all they can to notify residents, including news, social media, and websites. But a Reverse 911 system is the most reliable option available and the last thing we want is for a resident to miss critical information because they never registered. That's why I'm encouraging all citizens in American Fork, and in all other cities, to sign up for the free Reverse 911 service in your area. If you've already signed up for the service, please take a moment to log in and ensure the contact information is correct so you can have peace of mind knowing you'll receive emergency alerts when needed.

Again, I'm encouraging everyone to visit alerts.utahcounty.gov or their local city website and sign up for this important service in order to keep our communities informed and safe.

Citizens Want to Know

How AF Allocates Funds for Roads

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allocate millions of dollars to roads every year, that amount still falls short of what is needed.

In 2008, the City Council approved a property tax increase to allocated funds to road repairs. It was originally anticipated it would produce \$500,000 additional revenue annually, but with the downturn in the economy that same year that mark was not reached. Even today American Fork City estimates it collects about \$150,000 annually from the property tax increase approved in 2008. All those taxes, plus many other additional dollars, still go towards our road work today.

In an effort to get on top of our road funding needs another effort went to the voters in 2013. They turned down a plan to repair and replace a portion of the community's roads and bond to pay for them over a period of time.

In 2018 American Fork created a 10-year road plan, under which every city-controlled street in the community would be improved. Some of the major roads are state-owned and UDOT is responsible for their maintenance. It was a start, and a good one. The plan helped quantify the city's road needs, which totaled over \$26 million during the 10-year period. But it did not solve the funding shortfall. Additionally, several other circumstances slowed down the plan's implementation.

Construction costs were factored into the estimates, but the costs were unpredictable. Not only had they risen over the years, but sometimes unanticipated conditions increased the price tags.

"Every project needs some level of engineering, geotechnical investigation and inspection," said Scott Sensenbaugher, American Fork's Public Works Director. Other conditions slowed down the work and added to the costs, but were money-saving in the long run.

"When you go to fix a road, you really need to address what is under the ground first," Sensenbaugher said. Water lines, sewer lines and others are best repaired before a road is repaved, ensuring a longer-lasting road surface.

"We do everything we can to make sure we don't cut brand-new roads," he said. "It is to keep the roads in good condition for as long as possible. A little bit of money goes a long way."

Another money-saving option sometimes has residents wondering. Occasionally, someone expresses concern that a particular road, that didn't appear to be in bad condition, was repaired sooner than ones that were much worse. The answer is based on a formula for road maintenance, one that maximizes the return for the tax dollars spent. There will be more about this in our next communication.

All in all, American Fork has averaged slightly less than \$1.7 million a year spent on maintaining and repairing its roads. In the current year, the funds expended are anticipated at \$3.28 million. "This year we will be completing several projects that will make our road funding the highest for several years," said city administrator David Bunker. To do this the city has had to use some fund balance and forgo other important capital projects.

This year the City is also setting out to accomplish another ambitious goal. The City will work to replace our previous 10-year road plan with a 5-year infrastructure plan. This plan, which the City hopes to complete by 2021, looks not only at the road surface but also at the utilities underneath the road. By coordinating all the needs in a given segment of road at the same time, the City can be more efficient in the road repairs we make. Unfortunately, it also means more money will be spent per lane mile of roads. But by taking a more comprehensive look at roads we hope to have more accurate data, which residents can use when deciding on the best way to fix our roads.

In American Fork City's next installment of "Citizen's Want to Know" we will dive deeper into our roads issue by examining road repair strategies, funding options, and other common questions related to the city's road infrastructure.

Learning Center

Reading/Math tutoring-
Monday-Thursday 3:00-6:00 pm
English Class-
Wednesday & Thursday 6:30-8:00pm

These free services are offered for students throughout the community

Call for an appointment 801-492-3593

While Covid-19 is No Treat, The CDC Offers Ways to Enjoy a Safe Halloween

As many people in the United States begin to plan for fall and winter holiday celebrations, CDC offers the following considerations to help protect individuals, their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19. When planning to host a holiday celebration, you should assess current COVID-19 levels in your community to determine whether to postpone, cancel, or limit the number of attendees.

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses, however, there are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Lower risk activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart

- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
 - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced

- at least 6 feet apart
- If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs.

Higher risk activities

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
 - Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
 - Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
 - Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
 - Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
 - Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
 - Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19



HALLOWEEN ON MAIN 

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

ART DYE PARK

3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

DRIVE THRU 



- this is a drive-thru event
- enter from Beehive Fields (550 E)
- follow designated route
- stop at each booth
- roll down windows and get goodies
- have FUN!

Talk Shop With a Cop

Staying Safe While Driving Near Schools



With school in session, it is time to use extra caution to make sure that children can travel to and from school safely. Below, you'll find a list of requirements while operating a motorized vehicle while in a marked School Zone:

- At a crosswalk, motor vehicles are required to yield the right of way to all pedestrians and bicyclists.
- At school crosswalks with lights flashing, motorists must come to a complete stop for anyone in the crosswalk regardless of what side of the roadway they are on. At crosswalks outside of a designated school crosswalk, motorists must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk on the motorist's half of the roadway or if the pedestrian is fast approaching from the opposite half of the roadway.
- When pedestrians or bicyclists are attempting to cross the roadway at other locations without a crosswalk, stop sign, or yield sign, they must yield to motor vehicles. Pedestrians are required to obey all traffic signs and signals that apply to pedestrians. When in doubt, it is always best to yield the right of way to others on the roadway.
- To ensure the safety of bicyclists, motorists may not pass within 3 feet of a moving bicycle, regardless of the time of day, location, or age of the bicyclist. All bicyclists must have at least one hand on the handlebars at all times. In addition, a bicyclist is not permitted to carry packages, packs, bundles, or any other article that prevents him/her from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

There are specific rules for electric bicycles as well. Some of these laws include:

- An individual under 16 years of age may not operate a class 3 electric assisted bicycle (a class 3 bicycle is capable of speed of 20 mph or more), an individual under 14 years of age may not operate an electric assisted bicycle with the electric motor engaged on any public property, highway, path, or sidewalk unless the individual is under the direct supervision of the individual's parent or guardian, and an individual under eight years of age may not operate an electric assisted bicycle with the electric motor engaged on any public property, highway, path, or sidewalk.
- In addition, please make sure that you secure your bicycle with a locking device at school and at home. You should also make a record of the serial number in the event the bicycle is stolen. You can also register your bicycle at the police department so that officers can search the serial number when a bicycle is recovered. Bike registration is free for American Fork or Cedar Hills citizens. You can register your bike by coming into our Police Department during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm). Please bring the make, model and serial number of your bicycle. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the registration form and receive your registration sticker.

You are encouraged to contact the police department if you have any questions; e-mails may be sent to alunt@afcity.net. Depending on the number and type of questions received, your question may be answered via the city newsletter, e-mail, or phone call.



Please be aware that the pressurized irrigation system will be turned off on **October 15th**



American Fork Communities That Care is partnering with United Way of Utah County to help community members learn about the Everyday Strong program. Everyday Strong empowers parents and other caring adults to start building resilience by building safety, connection and confidence in the children around them. Sign up for this FREE one hour online course at uwayuc.org/webinar. Learn more at www.everydaystrong.org.

Communities That Care is always looking for American Fork residents who want to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Contact Ashleigh Nye, afctc@afcity.net, for ways you can be involved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Did you know that the American Fork Library's current building turned 20 this year? The Library will be celebrating during October, November & December and need your help! If you were a part of the Book Brigade (human chain to move the books from the temporary library to the new building), the groundbreaking, or dedication we would love to hear your memories and see your pictures! Please email them to kbarton@afcity.net by November 1.